

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 00437 231943Z

63

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-1* NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06

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R 231842Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9695

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 0437

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SCUL, BE

SUBJECT: SPOKANE EXPO 1974

REF.: BRUSSELS 7448

1. ON JANUARY 23 WE AGAIN RAISED MATTER OF BELGIAN PARTICIPATION AT SPOKANE FAIR WITH BOTH BARBASON OF ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND COESSENS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. BOTH WERE UNFORTUNATELY OF THE FIRM OPINION THAT IT IS NOW VIRTUALLY CERTAIN BELGIUM WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN SPOKANE. THIS TRUE COESSENS SAID, BECAUSE BELGIUM NOW HAS ONLY A CARETAKER CABINET AND, IN HIS VIEW, IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE A NEW CABINET FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. BECAUSE OLD CABINET HAD TURNED DOWN PROPOSED BELGIAN PARTICIPATION, HE ADDED, ONLY A PERMANENT CABINET COULD REVERSE THE DECISION.

2. IT WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME TO HEAR OF THIS DECISION SINCE I HAD REAL HOPE, ESPECIALLY AFTER MY LAST TALK WITH MINISTER CLAES, THAT SOMETHING STILL COULD BE DONE. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY REAL REGRET TO COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON AND PRESIDENT COLE WHO PUT SO MUCH INTO THE EFFORT IN BELGIUM.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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